TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2003 LB 303

state who make decisions each and every day what's good, what's bad. And I can understand Senator Thompson's argument of trying to do what's right, and I'm doing what I think is right, and that is bestowing on individual citizens to make an informed And I say informed decision because that's what this bill requires -- information before, via the training course, before going without a helmet. I can support economic reasons for adopting this. I can state those. I won't restate those. We're surrounded by other states that have Medicaid spending issues just like we do, some better, some worse. doesn't have a helmet law and, actually, they don't have a budget issue right now, but it's probably for other reasons. There are sales taxes that could go up as a result of this. But, most importantly, I want to emphasize the fact that this bill is not the...will not bring us to the same status of even our surrounding states. Right now, we have the most restrictive helmet law in the United States. I seek to pull that back a Now even if this passes, that does not mean that little bit. everyone goes without a helmet. Let me point out in Florida, they adopted or they repealed the helmet law, basically as they had prior, but they didn't even have the training mechanism, and the fatality rate went down. The fatality rates without any even age restrictions, a brand new 16-year-old in Iowa could go without a helmet. Brand new driver, motorcycle rider 16 years old could go without a helmet. I'm not seeking to do that here in Nebraska. South Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas, I know right off the top of my head, have lower fatality rates without the restrictions that Nebraska has. I urge the adoption and I would ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote, please. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Been a request for a call of the house. All in favor of the house going under call vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor, and unexcused senators report to the Chamber. The house is under call. Please record your